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NASA AND EPA ADMINISTRATORS SIGN AGREEMENT

NASA Administrator Daniel Goldin and Environmental Protection Agency Administrator William K. Reilly today signed an agreement to broaden cooperation between the two agencies.

It addresses environmental research, pollution monitoring and other activities where the research capabilities of NASA can support EPA's mission to protect the environment.

"This agreement renews our commitment to safeguard the planet on which we live and to employ NASA's technical expertise and experience to help solve problems here on Earth," said Goldin.

EPA Administrator Reilly said, "I look forward to collaborating with NASA on environmental research and technology development. This agreement is going to bolster EPA's on-going efforts to monitor the health of our natural resources and the ecological systems that sustain us."

"EPA's Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program, for example, will especially benefit from this agreement. Our scientists use satellite imaging to secure the data we need to evaluate environmental conditions and trends, the effects of pollution and other information critical to making better decision," Reilly added.

The agreement pledges each agency to share information and facilities. It enables the exchange of personnel and joint development of research plans and projects.

Subjects of likely cooperative activities include Earth and environmental science and measurements, pollution monitoring, global climate and environmental change, technology transfer, and aerodynamic and fuel efficiencies.

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"The Bush Administration, in its support for NASA's Mission to Planet Earth, has long recognized the need to protect our environment based on rigorous research and accurate measurements. The kind of work Bill Reilly and I foresee as a result of this agreement will provide the data we need to make the right kind of decisions," said Goldin.

Agreement on specific cooperative activities will be detailed in the "Implementing Arrangements" authorized by the memorandum of understanding signed today.

The first implementing arrangement is being drafted by scientists of the two agencies. In conjunction with NASA's Mission to Planet Earth and EPA's Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program, the two agencies will establish a Joint Technical Working Group to identify and recommend projects in Earth and environmental science and measurements. These projects could address global environmental monitoring.

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